

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(31)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

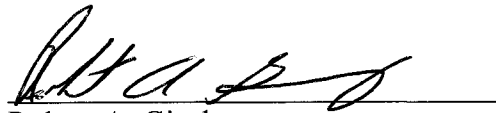
**DATE:** June 21, 2005

**FROM:** Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution authorizing  
expenditure of fees collected  
for issuing parking permits for  
persons transporting young  
children and strollers

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Natacha Seijas.

  
Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

RAG/bw



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** June 21, 2005

**FROM:** Robert A. Ginsburg  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 14(A)(31)

Please note any items checked.



\_\_\_\_ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised

\_\_\_\_ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing

\_\_\_\_ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing

\_\_\_\_ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget

\_\_\_\_ Budget required.

\_\_\_\_ Statement of fiscal impact required

\_\_\_\_ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation

\_\_\_\_ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing

\_\_\_\_ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)

\_\_\_\_ No committee review

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(31)  
06-21-05

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF  
FEES COLLECTED FOR ISSUING PARKING PERMITS  
FOR PERSONS TRANSPORTING YOUNG CHILDREN  
AND STROLLERS TO CHARLEE OF DADE COUNTY,  
INC.

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 94-104 provides that one-third of fees collected for issuing parking permits for persons transporting young children and strollers shall be distributed to private non-for-profit non-denominational agencies providing services for severely abused or neglected children; and

**WHEREAS**, Charlee of Dade County, Inc. is a private not-for-profit non-denominational agency providing services for severely abused or neglected children,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that the County Manager is hereby directed to distribute funds collected from the issuance of parking permits for persons transporting young children and strollers to the following agency in the following amount:

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
Charlee of Dade County, Inc.	\$50,000	Care for children in Miami-Dade County who have been placed in foster care due to abuse, abandonment and neglect

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Natacha Seijas and offered by  
Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by  
Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Carlos A. Gimenez
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Dorrian D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2005. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

RA6

Robert A. Ginsburg

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**CHARLEE**  
*Homes for Children*

May 26, 2005

Commissioner Natacha Seijas  
District 13  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street, Suite 320  
Miami, Florida 33128

Dear Commissioner,

What a pleasure it was to meet with you on Friday. Thank you for taking the time to talk with me about CHARLEE and the adventures and challenges we face as we raise many foster children here in Miami-Dade County. I am certainly appreciative of your time and hope that we can meet again soon. Pursuant to your request, I am sending you a detailed narrative regarding our request for \$50,000.

As you know, CHARLEE, which stands for Children Have All Rights: Legal, Educational and Emotional, is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency that cares for children in Miami-Dade County who have been placed in foster care due to abuse, abandonment, and neglect. Since its inception, CHARLEE has helped thousands of children in the foster care system begin a new life. With the privatization of the child welfare system occurring this year, CHARLEE is expected to double in size, serving 1000 children by August 1, 2005. Therefore, now more than ever, we are in need of the community's support.

There seems to be a barrier present when the words, "abused, abandoned, and neglected" are spoken. It is difficult for people to understand what those words mean when describing what occurs in the life of a foster child. Like all children, they are innocent and pure, but these children have been removed from their biological parents for reasons having nothing to do with their actions, but everything to do with the abuse their parents have inflicted upon them. Many children have been sexually abused. Many times the abuse is so severe, that when they are removed from their home, they are taken to CHARLEE's Gladstone Center for Girls. This is our 24-hour residential facility in which girls are placed in intensive rehabilitation, attend school, receive daily therapy, and live within the safety of the Gladstone walls. From there the children move to a foster home, hopefully with a loving and stable couple. For the first time in the children's lives, they are in a home where their perpetrator cannot touch them and they are not afraid. The attachment between the children and their foster parents grows strong. However, because of the "system" and the many technicalities that intrude, the judge often cannot

**CHARLEE Homes for Children**  
5915 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite #26 • Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
Tel 305-665-7365 • Fax 305-665-7309  
[www.charleehomes.org](http://www.charleehomes.org)



immediately terminate the parental rights. With no termination of rights, the children remain in the system without permanency.

In addition, take for example, the case of a sixteen-year-old girl with severe mental disabilities who is abused and lives her entire life in the foster care system. Not only is this a rough road, but then, she becomes pregnant and has a baby of her own. A sixteen year old who is not capable of taking care of herself, must now care for a baby. So it is no surprise then, when her baby is discovered with fractures to his skull and arms. She does not know how to care for him and the abuse cycle continues.

Over our 22-year existence, CHARLEE has been and continues to be family to thousands of foster care children in Miami-Dade County. Many times, despite the obstacles, a child does heal and grow. Such was the case with Jennifer, who despite being sexually abused by her father, grew up in one of our residential group homes, received the therapy she so desperately required, and is now a full time college student achieving her degree and working as well. She lives on her own and is a frequent visitor at our CHARLEE office. And there are countless others, who because of CHARLEE and the life we provide for them, have been able to succeed despite what seems to be insurmountable odds.

CHARLEE currently has over 500 stories to share and come August 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have over 1000 individual stories of children and the intricate lives they lead. CHARLEE is committed to making sure that the children in our care receive the appropriate treatment they need. We cannot do this without our community's help.

CHARLEE will expand a great deal with the privatization of the child welfare system in Miami-Dade County. We refuse to allow this growth to take place at the expense of the quality of services we provide. There will be no compromise. CHARLEE will continue to provide a high quality of care for abused, abandoned, and neglected children, whether they are infants or young adults. As one adolescent who recently "aged out" of the system eloquently explained to a group of community leaders last month, "once a CHARLEE kid, always a CHARLEE kid!" We are and will continue to be his family and family to 1000 other young people.

CHARLEE needs your help to provide the specialized continuum of care that is needed for our children so that all might enjoy such successes as Jennifer. CHARLEE is committed to helping each and every child become productive members of our community and to extinguishing the cycle of abuse from one generation to the next. Your \$50,000 donation, along with other community resources, will help CHARLEE to successfully raise the existing as well as the future children entrusted to our care. Through your generosity, we will be able to give our children an opportunity to heal and restore their hope for the future, and together we can create a more nurturing and compassionate world for these children in crisis. Thank you for allowing us to share our needs with you. Please do not hesitate to call me should you have any questions at (305) 665-7365 ext.122.

Sincerely,

Mary Cagle  
CEO

CHARLEE Homes for Children

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[www.charleeprogram.org](http://www.charleeprogram.org)

